

Adopted: April 24, 1944

File No. 4859-43

REPORT OF THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD  
on the  
Investigation of an Accident Involving Aircraft  
During a Local Practice Flight

Ted Anders Gentry was fatally injured in an accident which occurred in a suburban area of Asheville, North Carolina, about 3:45 p.m. on November 14, 1943. Gentry held a student pilot certificate and had flown approximately 30 solo hours, all in the type airplane involved. The aircraft, a Piper J3L, NC 25095, owned by Paul N. McMurray, was destroyed by impact and fire.

Gentry secured clearance from the Asheville-Hendersonville Airport for a local practice flight and took off at approximately 3:00 p.m. He was observed about 25 minutes later, flying low and circling in the vicinity of his home in a suburban area of Asheville. After some 20 minutes of low and reckless flying, during which he barely missed houses, trees and power lines, he stalled the plane in a turn with power off and it dived to the ground from an altitude of around 50 feet. The aircraft struck the ground on its nose at an angle of about 45°, approximately 600 feet from the pilot's home, and burst into flames.

There was no evidence of failure of any part of the airplane prior to impact. The weather was suitable for flying and did not contribute to the accident. Gentry, in his apparent attempt to "show-off" before friends and relatives, alternately reduced and increased power, which probably contributed to his loss of flying speed.

The probable cause of this accident was the pilot's recklessness and disregard for safety which terminated in a stall at an altitude too low for recovery.

BY THE BOARD

/s/ Fred A. Toombs  
Secretary